THE

Caledonian Mercury.

No. 9571. EDINBURGH, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1. 1783.

THE

THEATRE ROYAL

WILL OPEN,

On SATURDAY next, January 4,

WITH A

NEW PRELUDE, PLAY, & FARCE,

As will be expressed in the Bills.

The Box-book will be opened To-morrow, at twelve o'clock noon.

CANONGATE POOR.

ON Sunday next there will be an EXTRAORDINARY COLLECTION at the Church-door of CANONGATE, for relief of the Poor.——Of late, a partial supply has been obtained, by a particular application to a number of the most affluent inhabitants, who have not an opportunity of contributing at the Public Collection. The Managers of the Poor are sorry to observe, that the supply granted is still inadqate to the necessary demands. As there may be still some who have not been applied to, who may be willing to bestow their charity, and others who, in this season of general scarcity, that may be inclined to [illegible] would be pleased to send what they are pleased to allow to

Mr James Wood, Buchanan's Land, Canongate Head, Treasurer to the Poor-House.

Bailie Daniel Miller, grocer, head of New Street.

Mr James Tod, Clerk at the Charity Work-House,—who will grant receipts, if desired.

SALE OF WAX CANDLES.

TO be sold at C. WATERSTON'S shop, Lawn-market, Edinburgh, a large assortment of WAX CANDLES, of the very best quality and colour, at 3s. 4d. per lib. Also Wax Flambeaux, and common ditto, with white bleached wax, at the lowest prices.

The sale to continue only a few days.

To the Printer of the Caledonian Mercury.

SIR,

WHOEVER reflects upon the present scarcity and high prices of provisions, must look forward to the consequences with anxiety: and every lover of his country is entitled to submit to the Public such considerations as may tend in the least to avert the dreaded evil. During the course of last summer, and particularly in the beginning of harvest, we had heavy and continued rains, which damaged the victual greatly, and caused a just alarm: But it pleased Heaven afterwards to send us more favourable weather, when a vast deal of the standing corn, which had been given up for lost, was cut down in good condition; and it is agreed that the crop has not turned out so bad as we at first had reason to fear. I have been told by several farmers in Lothian, that the crop has been by no means a bad one. I allow, Mr Printer, that many farmers have suffered by the bad season, and that the returns have not been equal to what they might have expected: But, at the same time, Sir, Charity has enough to do in convincing me, that the present rates of the markets are not proportioned to the first alarm.

Let us suppose that the scarcity is as great as represented: Is there no way of bringing down the exorbitant market-rates? The Magistrates of this city have done themselves great honour, by setting on foot a subscription for purchasing meal for the relief of the poorer inhabitants: But, with the greatest submission, I apprehend that this will not bring down, but tend to raise the price of meal. The purchase is made at home, where the corn is confessedly scarce, and consequently dear: The full price is paid for it; and, although dealt out at a reduced price to those who are thought proper objects, yet there are many thousands not admitted to the benefit, who, by reason of the high prices, can, by the hardest labour, earn but a scanty morsel for themselves and family.

If we would have cheap markets, let *all* the ports be opened for *all* kinds of grain; and let the sums collected, instead of buying meal, which can help only a few individuals, be given in premiums to those bringing grain from foreign markets; and let these premiums be proportioned to the quantities imported. Let there be a competition between foreigners and our own countrymen, and the markets will undoubtedly fall. To this it will be objected, that the farmers, being then necessitated to sell their victual at a price far below what they can afford, they will not be in a condition to pay the rents of their farms, and, in the end, the loss will fall upon the gentlemen possessed of landed property. This, in part, I allow to be the case. Perhaps a gentleman of 3001. a-year, will lose an 8th, 10th, or 12th part of that sum; and I am certain he can bear the loss. If any one denies it, I beg he will answer me the following questions: How shall a poor man, who, with hard labour, earns 15l. or 18l. a-year, maintain himself and his family, when the meal, the chief part of their provision, is at 16d. a peck? Whether is it better that one man should deny himself some of the superfluities of life, or a hundred starve for want of what is necessary? Is not wealth the produce of labour? And shall those who toil to amass wealth for others, bear the whole burden in times of scarcity? God forbid that I should be suspected of mentioning these circumstances with the least desire of inflaming the minds of the people. I only mean to say, that, although a general importation of corn may, for a little, hurt the landed interest, yet it appears to me the only means of affording that moderate subsistence which is at all times due to the labouring part of the community. If I am wrong in any of the principles I go upon, or from these draw false conclusions, nothing shall give me greater pleasure than to be set right. But if the above, or a better scheme, does not take place for bringing about the desired object, may Heaven send us better times.

PHILANTHROPOS.

To the Printer of the CALEDONIAN MERCURY.

SIR,

IF you, with your usual candour, will give the following a place in your independent and well-conducted paper, it will oblige

A CONSTANT READER.

To ZENO.

SIR,

YOU have entered on a subject hitherto little attended to, though unquestionably of the last importance. If I may be allowed to form a judgment from your first letter, your intelligence and abilities will do credit to the task you have undertaken, and, in pursuing it, you will secure to yourself the grateful approbation of your fellow-citizens. Though we daily complain of its abuses, there is nothing with which we are less acquainted than the political constitution of our burghs. It will be your business, Sir, to shew that *burgesses* were the *true* and *ancient Commons* of the kingdom: That gross abuses have crept in since the establishment of communities and corporations, in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries; and that, at this day, the Magistrates and Council of a burgh are no more the representatives of the inhabitants, than the Parliament of Paris, or the Divan at Constantinople.

No two things can be opposed to each other more repugnant in their principles, than the constitution of Great Britain and that of a burgh. The first, the emblem of freedom, beautiful in its construction, and the admiration of mankind; the latter, impure in its principles, [illegible] and the disgrace of the country which exists. [illegible] has been said of the improvements which will be introduced when we shall be entitled to send representatives to Parliament from *every* burgh, instead of from the *district*, as at present. In my opinion, unless they are really to be the representatives of the inhabitants, in place of that of the Council, as they now are, our situation would be infinitely worse. It would give to the junto of every Council much more importance, while the people at large would lie subjected to thraldom, considerably encreased. At present we have the beggarly shadow of a police, but then, it is probable, we should have none. I believe it is pretty generally known, that it was almost the uniform practice, in the Ministers of James VI. as well as those of Charles I. and II. to send lists of the Magistrates and Council of every burgh, previous to the Michaelmas election. It is evident, from the records of several burghs, that James VI. frequently suspended the elections till his pleasure should be known; and even stooped to point out what names should be out, and what in, for the following year. It is a melancholy reflection, that our notions of liberty were, at that period, so very low, as that these lists were constantly adhered to.

It would be difficult to conceive why the ancient mode of electing the Council in burghs, by the burgesses at large, should ever have been changed for the present arbitrary system, did we not know, that it originated in the wretched plan of Court policy adopted by the Stuart family, whose constant aim was to render every thing agreeable to their principles of high prerogative and absolute government. Yet we see the tameness of our forefathers was such, as that they invariably followed whatever was proposed to them. Indeed, these persons, to whom these propositions came, were well known to be the pliant tools of an arbitrary Court, and were pretty certain that their complaisance would be returned at the next election. It was just then as it is now, the present Council chose their successors, and they in return elected those who preceded them, and a certain number took the rotation, with hardly any change. But if, at the close of the eighteenth century, when our ideas of liberty are so much enlarged, and the natural rights of mankind so well understood; when his Majesty's Ministers have declared their intentions, and his Majesty himself, like a true patriot King, has expressed his wishes that we should be freed from the manacles with which we have been so long fettered; should we, I say, be insensible to all these advantages, and be so much wanting to ourselves as to rest satisfied with our present condition, it would be strange indeed!

In one thing, every burgess, both in and out of Council, seems to agree, that the ancient constitution of burghs should be restored, and the right of election, respecting both counsellors and members of Parliament, vested, where it ever should have been, in the free and independent burgesses: That the constitution of all the burghs should be uniform, in which the utmost care should be taken to have a proper application of the public funds, and to establish a sound police. These, I am persuaded, are the sentiments of a very great majority of the inhabitants of every burgh. There is in this country, I trust, a fund of good sense and love of liberty, fully equal to the accomplishment of these things. The times are favourable; and it would be an eternal reproach to us if the opportunity were lost.

But I encroach, Sir, on your province. A fair field is open to you, in which you will acquire the just praise of every wellwisher to his country, as you already have the sincere esteem of your obedient servant,

CIVIS.

Aberdeen, Dec. 28.

From the London Papers, Dec. 26.

LONDON.

A letter has been received at the Admiralty from Captain Inglefield of the Centaur, giving an account of the loss of that ship, near the Western Islands, at one of which (Fyal) he, with ten of his men and a boy, had the good fortune to arrive, after beating about the seas for sixteen days in an open boat, without compass, or any thing else to enable them to steer by. Captain Inglefield mentions, that he and his men, amongst other distressing circumstances, were reduced to the horrid necessity of drinking their own urine to sustain life, and that one of the people who had quenched his thirst with sea-water, died in convulsions. Captain Inglefield mentions nothing of the Ville de Paris and Glorieux.

Another account says, yesterday afternoon a packet was received at the Admiralty-office from Captain Inglefield, last commander of his Majesty's ship the Centaur, of 74 guns, containing the melancholy advice of that ship having foundered in the Atlantic, near the Azores. At the time of her sinking, most of her crew were on board, there not being a single sail in sight to give them any assistance. A short time previous to her going down, a part of her crew took to her remaining boats, which were three in number, her other boats being stove in the hurricane; but of these, two, it is said, sunk from being too much laden, and all on board them perished. The other, which was a small launch, containing only twelve men, besides the captain and a boy, fortunately escaped to Fyal, one of the Azores, at which place the above unhappy few, five one, arrived, after an elapse of sixteen days from the time they first took to the boat.

When the wretched survivors above mentioned quitted the ship, they could take with them only water sufficient for three days, but which was lengthened out, so as to serve them nine days; after which time, they were reduced to the wretched extremity of drinking their own urine; those who attempted to drink sea-water being instantly in great agonies.

It further appears, that shortly after the Centaur was taken in tow by the Ville de Paris, in consequence of her being dismasted, she was separated from that ship by a violent swell, and lost sight of her in the night. After which separation, she continued for upwards of three weeks driving at random, not being able to hoist the least canvas. During this period they had not the good fortune to fall in with any sail whatever, and the ship's guns being thrown overboard, and all the powder spoiled, they had it not in their power to make signals of distress, had a vessel been discovered. The ship being very leaky, her hands were employed night and day bayling at all hatchways. In this heavy duty many of them died from fatigue.

The entire complement of the Centaur was 600 men. Some of her officers and men, it is said, went into the Ville de Paris, to assist her when she first took the Centaur in tow; but of this we are not certain.

The above unfortunate ship sailed from England with Commodore Walsingham, when he went out to the West Indies in the Thunderer. The similarity of the fate of these two ships is rather a remarkable circumstance.

Besides the officers that were on board the Ville de Paris, there were near twenty passengers and their families from Jamaica.

The fate of the Centaur is truly deplorable, and makes the number of men we have lost by shipwreck (including the Royal George) during this year, to be upwards of 2800, exclusive of the Ville de Paris and Glorieux, of which no certain accounts are yet received.

It is whispered that some proposals for a separate treaty with Spain is on the carpet, and said to be in consequence of France rejecting the terms, without a monopoly, which no power in Europe would suffer them long to enjoy, if they could obtain it.

We are assured that something of the above was the consideration of a Cabinet Council, held on Christmas day, at Lord Shelburne's, and are said to have originated on the continent.

It has been said, in all the papers of this week, that if the treaty pending between Great Britain and France should break off, our Cabinet have resolved that war shall be declared with the usual formalities, that we may then claim the benefit of our *alliances*: A correspondent would rejoice at being informed where these alliances are to be found. We have a commercial treaty, indeed, with Russia, but not an offensive and and defensive one: Denmark is bound up by the treaty of neutrality; our treaties with Prussia are dissolved; Swenen is the ally of France; Naples obeys a branch of the House of Bourbon; the King of Sardinia may be our friend, but he can be of no service to us, for he has no fleet; the other Italian States are totally unconnected with us. Poland is unable to assist herself; the Emperor is not allied to us, and the Turks are in danger of an attack from the combined forces of Austria and Russia; we have no subsisting treaty with any of the Electorates except *dear* Hanover; and Portugal, though she may wish well to us, observes a strict neutrality. Who, then, are our allies? The Landgrave of Hesse, the Margrave of Anspach and the Duke of Brunswick; but there is no occasion for a formal declaration of war, to induce these *mighty* allies to send us succours; a good draft upon the Bank would be infinitely more effectual than all the pomp and ceremonies of the Earl Marshall's parade, and the proclamations of the King at Arms. Perhaps we may call upon our old friends the Dutch, for the stipulated supplies; but they will send them with a vengeance to us!

The high republican party in Holland, which, strange as it may appear, is entirely devoted to the will of France, has now received a check, that probably will make them feel the necessity of turning their thougts to peace. The Prince of Orange was from the beginning an enemy to a rupture with England; and for that reason his Highness was marked down as an object of attack from the French party; and various were the indignities offered to him, and the mortifications that he experienced, from the various resolves of the different Provincial assemblies; and God knows where the high republican party would have stopped, if the King of Prussia had not timely interfered; the memorial lately presented by that Monarch's Ambassador, the Baron de Thulemeyer, in which he declared he was shocked at the indecent and injurious treatment his nephew experienced from the different States, and to which he expected to see a speedy end, will have a powerful effect.

It has confounded the enemies of the Stadtholder; for they now find, that exclusive of the influence he has officially in the Councils of the Republic, he is likely to be powerfully supported by a Prince, the most formidable to Holland of all her surrounding neighbours. It is expected that this memorial will have great effect for the negociations for peace, as the French party among the Dutch have not, since the receipt of it, held near so lofty a language as before.

If the present negociation should not produce a general peace, we shall have to maintain the contest upon something more like terms of equality; for, distressed as the Hollanders are in their commerce, embarrassed in their finances, and threatened with rebellion, they cannot have the folly and madness to persevere in a controversy which threatens to involve them in irretrievable ruin.

So complicated and interesting are our affairs in the East and West Indies, and so many and important are the domestic regulations intended to be introduced, that sufficient matter will be afforded to engage the attention of Government without looking for further employment [illegible] a long time, evident and absolute necessity [illegible] foreign politics, than

From the LONDON GAZETTE, *Dec.* 28.

Whitehall, December 28.

THE King has been pleaſed to grant the dignity of a Baronet of the kingdom of Great Britain to Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Parker, Knight, and the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten.

Alſo the like dignity of a Baronet of the kingdom of Great Britain to John Whalley Gardiner, of Roch Court in the county of Hants, Eſq; and the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten; with remainders ſeverally to James Whalley, Eſq; ſon of Robert Whalley, late of the city of Oxford, Eſq; and to Thomas William Whalley, Eſq; alſo ſon of the ſaid Robert Whalley, and the reſpective heirs male of their bodies lawfully begotten.

And the like dignity of a Baronet of the kingdom of Great Britain to James Graham of Netherby, in the county of Cumberland, Eſq; and the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten.

War-Office, Dec. 28. 1782.

2d Regiment of dragoon guards, Major George Lord Herbert, of 22d dragoons, is appointed to be Lieutenant-Colonel, vice Sir William Innes, Bart.

2d Regiment of dragoons, Henry Wigley, Gent. to be Cornet, vice James Riddell.

21ſt Regiment of dragoons, John Inglett Forteſcue, Gent. to be Cornet, vice Robert Dalrymple Elphinſtone.

Coldſtream regiment of foot guards, Major Honourable Henry Brodrick, of 35th foot, to be Captain Lieutenant, vice Thomas Willet Saltren.

3d Regiment of foot guards, Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Swanton to be Captain of a company, vice Daniel Danvers Rich. Captain John Earl of Chatham, of 86th foot, to be Captain-Lieutenant, vice Thomas Swanton.

2d Regiment of foot, Enſign Benjamin Edwards to be Lieutenant, vice James Ackland.

4th Regiment of foot, Captain-Lieutenant John Thomas Maddiſon to be Captain of one of the additional companies, vice Edward Barron. Lieutenant George Bodens to be Captain-Lieutenant, vice John Thomas Maddiſon. Enſign W. Shewen to be Lieutenant, vice George Bodens. —— Mauderley, Gent. to be Enſign, vice W. Shewen.

6th Regiment of foot, Major Hew Dalrymple, of the 92d regiment, to be Major, vice Francis James Scott.

18th Regiment of foot, Enſign William Henn, of Captain Farquharſon's independent company, to be Enſign, vice Charles M'Mahon. Surgeon Thomas Venour, of 75th foot, to be Surgeon, vice Richard Babington.

40th Regiment of foot, George Vanbrugh, Clerk, to be Chaplain, vice George Thompſon.

52d Regiment of foot, Hoſpital-mate Patrick Drummond to be Surgeon, vice Patrick Dundon.

56th Regiment of foot, Lieutenant James Millerd to be Captain-Lieutenant, vice John Caſſan. Enſign Benjamin Johnſon to be Lieutenant, vice James Millerd.

58th Regiment of foot, Serjeant-Major James Bavin to be Adjutant, vice William Cunninghame.

60th Regiment, 1ſt battalion, Hoſpital-mate Everard Home to be Surgeon, vice Peter Walth.

62d Regiment of foot, Captain-Lieutenant William Wilkinſon to be Adjutant, vice Arthur Blackall.

69th Regiment of foot, Gabriel Thompſon, Gent. to be Enſign, vice George Savage.

72d Regiment of foot, Lieutenant Richard Ward Offley, to be Captain of a company, vice William Billings. Enſign John Lewis Evelegh to be Lieutenant, vice Richard Ward Offley. Enſign John Nunns to be Lieutenant, vice Thomas Wilſon.

73d Regiment, 2d battallion, Lieutenant Charles Douglas to be Captain of a company, vice John M'Intoſh. Enſign Charles Clarke to be Lieutenant, vice Charles Douglas. Enſign John Gordon to be Lieutenant, vice Alexander M'Kenzie.

75th Regiment of foot, Hoſpital-Mate Edward M'Alliſter to be Surgeon, vice Thomas Venour.

80th Regiment of foot, Captain Robert Manners, of the 86th regiment, to be Major vice William Maxwell.

81ſt Regiment of foot, Major John M'Donald to be Lieutenant-Colonel, vice Robert Farquhar. Captain Alexander Leith to be Major, vice John M'Donald. Lieutenant William Burnett, to be Captain of a company, vice Alexander Leith.

91ſt Regiment of foot, Major William Maxwell, of 80th regiment, to be Lieutenant-Colonel, vice Richard Boyeott.

92d Regiment of foot, Major Francis James Scott, of the 6th foot, to be Major, vice Hew Dalrymple.

Major Commandant Pringle's corps, Enſign John Haynes to be Lieutenant, vice Alexander Wilſon. William Caddy, Gent. to be Enſign, vice John Haynes.

Enſign Charles M'Mahon, of the 18th foot, to be Enſign in Captain Farquharſon's independent company, vice William Henn.

John Steel Gent. to be Enſign in Captain Duff's independent company, vice Andrew Gildea.

Lieutenant David Carnie, of the 83d regiment, to be Lieutenant in Captain Crawford's independent company of Invalids, vice Alexander Hogge.

Lieutenant William Brodie, of Captain Watt's Independent company of Invalids, to be Fort-Major, and Adjutant to the garriſon of Jerſey, vice Alexander Hogge.

Thomas Wallen, Eſq; to be deputy commiſſary of muſters for the forces at Jamaica.

INTELLIGENCE FROM LLOYD'S, *Dec.* 27.

The Molly, Lloyd, from Liverpool to the Weſt Indies, was taken by the Holker American privateer, after a ſevere engagement, and carried into Martinico; the Molly had 4 killed, and 13 wounded.

The Catharine, Lorentzon, from Peterſburgh to Oſtend, is totally loſt in the Cattagat.

The Elizabeth, Burgeſs, from Exeter to Cork, was taken and retaken by a Jerſey privateer, and brought into Plymouth.

The Cato man of war, Sir Hyde Parker, and Hound ſloop, arrived at Madeira the 27th of October, and ſailed for the Eaſt Indies the 1ſt of November.

Sir Richard Hughes, with eight ſail of the line, arrived at Madeira the 1ſt of November, and ſailed the 12th for the Weſt Indies.

The Juno, Channel, from London to Halifax, taken by the French privateer, Sophia, is retaken by the Echo privateer of Jerſey, and carried in there.

The Knas Demetry Babetchiff, Folamky, from Peterſburgh, with iron and deals, for Hull, was loſt the 30th ult. near Bornholm; part of the cargo will be ſaved.

The Tweed, Coates, from Peterſburgh for Leith, was loſt the 23d ult. near Swiſtamunde, but it is hoped the cargo will be ſaved.

Kinſale, 16th Dec. Arrived the brig Trio, of and for Virginia, from Nantz, loaded with ſalt, brandy, and ſome bale goods, William Birrell late maſter. She left Nantz the beginning of this month, with the ſaid Captain Birrell, his mate, ſix men, and a boy, three of whom were Engliſh, and had been priſoners at Nantz; a French boy, a negro ſervant, and two Italians. Three days after their departure, on the 7th inſtant, the mate, the three Engliſhmen, and the black, forced the command from the Captain, ſecured the veſſel, and brought her ſafe in here. Note, She loſt her mainmaſt and fore topmaſt ſince the capture.

By a letter from Bourdeaux, of the 14th inſtant, it was there reported, that the Nra Sta. Del Carmen, Capt. Antonio Delague, a cartel, from London to New Orleans, going up the river, ſtruck upon a log and ſunk.

Portſmouth 26. Arrived and came into harbour, the Ardent, a new 64 gun ſhip, lately launched at Burſledon. The men of war bound to the Eaſt Indies, are expected to go down to St Helen's to-morrow. Wind weſt.

From the London Papers, Dec. 28.

LONDON.

The Alexander, Roſs, from Antigua, is arrived in the Downs. She left the iſlands about the 20th of November, and before ſhe ſailed advice had been received from Barbadoes of Admiral Pigot's arrival there, with ſixteen ſail of the line from America, and 2 few troops from New-York on board the ſhips of war, ſo that the tables were turned on the French, and they began to entertain fears for Martinico, or Guadaloupe, as they apprehended the whole force from New-York and Charleſtown was coming to the windward iſlands, under the convoy of Lord Hood, who they ſuppoſed was left behind on purpoſe.

The following is the exact ſtate of the Britiſh navy in ſhips of the line at this time in commiſſion:

In the Eaſt-Indies, or on the way,	16
Weſt-Indies, and ditto,	38
Iſland of Jamaica,	7
Coming home with convoy,	3
In port, or now ſailing for ſea,	43
Guardſhips at the Nore,	2
Ditto at Cork,	1
Cruiſing for different purpoſes,	3
At Gibraltar on the 10th inſtant,	1
On Liſbon ſtation,	2
Total	116
Beſides which there are repairing	12
Building and nearly ready,	7
In all	135

Nine new ſhips of the line have been added to our naval force this year, and three of 50 guns beſides frigates, which is a much greater exertion than has been made in any former war.

A correſpondent of the firſt information aſſures us, that New York will not be totally evacuated till every thing is finally adjuſted with the Court of France, as it has been long ſuſpected that the French mean to take poſſeſſion of that important garriſon when our troops are withdrawn.

The preparations for hoſtilities continue with unremitted vigour on both ſides, as we may evidently ſee by the fitting out of our own ſhips and tranſports, and the ſailing of ſmall convoys (ſuch as that which Captain Luttrel fell in with) from different ports of France, wherever they are able to muſter any force, or collect ſtores.

Notwithſtanding all the warlike preparations of the preſent moment, and that every thing has the appearance of war, it is thought, and that from reſpectable authority, that a general peace will be proclaimed by all the belligerent powers before the 10th of January; or at leaſt, that another letter will be ſent to the Lord Mayor and Directors of the Bank by Mr Secretary Townſhend to that effect before that period.

The communication which is opened between the ports of England and France in the narrow part of the Channel, employs eight packet-boats: but ſo inceſſantly are the couriers paſſing and repaſſing that it frequently happens ſix of the eight boats are on the ſea together. In order to prevent their being interrupted, they have paſſports from the American Commiſſioners, as well as from the Miniſters of England and France.

A letter from Amſterdam ſays, that the diſturbances in that city are become very alarming; the magiſtrates have uſed their utmoſt endeavours to prevent miſchief being done, but the populace declare that peace is their object, and they will not be quiet until that is agreed on, for they ſeverely feel the conſequences of the war, by the loſs of trade, the want of firing, and many other neceſſary articles.

With the receſs of Parliament moſt other buſineſs ſeems to have taken flight. In the commercial way very little is done; the ſtocks are at a ſtand, or if we might be indulged in a pun, at preſent ſtand *ſtock ſtill*; and notwithſtanding the frequent accounts of couriers paſſing and repaſſing, there is reaſon to think, from pretty good information, that very little effectual has been tranſacted relative to a peace. In this ſtate of *quietiſm*, however, it would be unjuſt perhaps to charge our Miniſters with Somnolency. There is no doubt but they are doing the beſt they can for their country; and if their efforts are not crowned with ſucceſs, the misfortune is not to be attributed to them, but to the uncertain ſtate of the times. In the war department matters are carrying on with the utmoſt vigour, particularly in the navy, ſo that ſhould the preſent negociations go off, our rulers will certainly have the glory of having put the national ſtrength upon a footing which may enable us to act with redoubled vigour, and make the enemies of Old England regret, that they have rejected the peace ſo opportunely offered them in the year 1782.

The titles of Dukes of York and Lancaſter will very ſoon be revived in the perſons of Prince William Henry and Prince Edward, their Majeſties third and fourth ſons.

General Boyd has been Lieutenant Governor of Gibraltar ever ſince the year 1770, during which time he has been generally a reſident on the ſpot.

The preſent truly reſpectable ſtate of our marine, is an inconteſtible proof of the good policy of entruſting the management of that department to a gentleman of profeſſional knowledge, whoſe experience has enabled him to avoid the errors to which the keeneſt ſpeculatiſts, unaſſiſted by practice, are ever expoſed.

We hear from reſpectable authority, that his Majeſty has received a letter from the Empreſs of Ruſſia, written in French with her own hand, in which that great Princeſs aſſures our King, that it was with infinite concern ſhe heard that there was an idea of his relinquiſhing to Spain his Majeſty's poſſeſſions in the Mediterranean; poſſeſſions, which ſhe declared the intereſt of Europe required ſhould remain in the hands of the Engliſh: Her Majeſty, it is ſaid, further aſſured the King, that ſhe had ſent orders to her Ambaſſador at the Court of Verſailles, to intimate to the Miniſters of the belligerent powers, that ſhe could not behold but with a jealous eye, any acceſſion of power to the Houſe of Bourbon, which was already ſo formidable, as to be able to reduce to the neceſſity of ſuing for a peace, a power which hitherto had given law to all the maritime ſtates; and that the very ſame reaſon which had prevented her from interfering ſooner, made her now ſpeak; for her ſyſtem was, that no nation or confederacy ſhould be permitted to acquire ſufficient ſtrength to be able to deſtroy its neighbours.

The natives of South America are on all hands acknowledged to be extremely diſſatisfied with the Spaniſh Government; a circumſtance that ſeems to invite us to make repriſals in that quarter, where, without difficulty, we might make acquiſitions greatly more than ſufficient to compenſate the misfortunes which Spain has been principally acceſſary in bringing upon this country.

That the King of England can never die, and that he can do no wrong, are maxims not admitting a literal interpretation; To inſiſt upon either, according to the ſtrict verbal renour, would be abſurd in the extreme; nor does our correſpondent think it leſs ſo, to aſſert that the recognition of American independence is irrevocable. Though the King has declared that country independent, that declaration is to be conſidered only as the reſult of the advice of his Cabinet, which muſt, to all intents and purpoſes, become void and nugatory, if the ſanction of Parliament be not added to conſtitute it a formal and ſolemn act of the *three* branches of the ſtate; for though, in virtue of his prerogative, the King may declare war, or make peace, he cannot legally alienate any part of his territories, in which his right, though hereditary, is neither real nor perſonal, but merely official. The avowal of American independence, in ſhort, is an act of which Miniſtry alone, and not the Sovereign, is reſponſible, and it may be reverſed either by them or their ſucceſſors in office. This doctrine was explained by Lord North in the year 1780, during an altercation between his Lordſhip and the then Speaker, when the former affirmed (with unanimous aſſent) that he was not bound to adhere to the conditions of any contract made by his predeceſſor.

In other countries ſlavery has no terrors for the people; but the principles of liberty are ſo intimately blended with the conſtitution of Engliſhmen, that the very idea of its oppoſite is to them more dreadful than that of death. A ſpirit of liberty naturally inſpires and foſters martial ardour; therefore, while the flame of liberty animates the breaſts of the people, England will remain a great and powerful ſtate: And though a concurrence of untoward accidents has ſomewhat eclipſed her glory, it is not to be doubted that her future atchievments will again illuminate this political conſtellation, in all her ancient ſplendor and magnificence.

Every day ſeems to throw additional gloom upon the proſpect of peace, which in all probability will be totally obſcured before the expiration of the firſt month of the new year.

Captain Aſgill arrived at New York on the 1ſt of November. The Swallow packet having ſailed without him, he followed her in a boat, but did not overtake her till ſhe had got upwards of four leagues to ſea. The conſequence was, that he came over without ſervant or baggage, and had but two hams on board.

On Thurſday evening, the 28th ult. a melancholy accident happened in Cuerdley, near Warrington. One James Barker came home with a loaded gun, which by accident went off in his hands, and ſhot his wife who was ſtanding by the fire, 8 months gone with child; one foot was entirely ſhot away, except a ſmall piece of ſkin, and ſhe died the ſame night about nine o'clock, in the moſt excruciating torments. What makes the caſe more deplorable, ſhe has left five ſmall children in very indigent circumſtances. The coroner's inqueſt brought in their verdict accidental death.

Extract of a letter from Goſport, Dec. 27.

"Captain Inglefield, of his Majeſty's ſhip Centaur, is this inſtant landed at Portſmouth, with the maſter, one midſhipman, and eight men, all that were ſaved out of that ſhip."

Extract of a letter from the Camp of St Roch, Nov. 30.

"Although the Court, by withdrawing a great number of the troops, ſeemed to have abandoned the ſcheme of carrying on the ſiege with the ſame vigour that they have done hitherto, the works, nevertheleſs, ſtill continue. On the 19th they began the conſtruction of a ſmall *boyau*, 9 ſacks in height, and two in thickneſs, near the cavern on the ſide of Picacho, as a ſhelter for the infantry, in caſe the enemy ſhould make a ſally on the ſide of the Levant. The enemy's fire, which this day conſiſted of 26 balls and 156 grenades, did not do any of our men the ſmalleſt injury. Two men of war and a frigate have entered the Bay of Algeſiras from Cadiz. On the night of the 10th, the troops were employed in filling 3000 ſacks of earth, and in heaping them up on the ſide of the rock. The garriſon fired upon us 106 balls and 141 grenades, while we were thus occupied, which wounded one ſoldier. The Chebec de St Louis, accompanied by ſeveral other veſſels, brought this day from the garriſon the priſoners which had compoſed the crew of le St Michael that was wrecked. Some of the ſeamen have entered into the ſervice of the enemy. On the 21ſt we raiſed three ſmall epaulements on the flank. The enemy diſcharged upon us three of their mortars, which they call *la Pallada*; they conſiſt of 25 or 30 grenades, filled with combuſtibles, and bound up together, which, burſting in ſucceſſion, do a prodigious deal of miſchief. They fired beſides, 150 balls.

"We learn, that Don Antonio Barcelo will again have the command of the blockade. The frigates which ſailed at the mouth of the Bay are now returned to Cadiz, there being no more than three empty veſſels which belonged to the convoy now at anchor near the place."

Extract of a letter from the Hague, Dec. 20.

"Some days ago the Pruſſian Miniſter attended the Aſſembly of the Deputies of the principal cities of Holland, and read a letter from the King his Maſter, in which his Majeſty charges him to communicate to the ſaid Deputies in his name, "That "his Majeſty, perceiving with great regret, and much aſtoniſh"ment, that the groſs inſults offered to the Prince Stadthol"der, and the Princeſs his conſort, were ſo far from being put "a ſtop to, that they ſtill continued, and it had even been re"fuſed to do juſtice to the Prince on that head; it would "therefore ill become him as uncle to thoſe illuſtrious perſons "to be any longer ſilent upon that ſubject; and therefore re"queſted that the ſaid Deputies would uſe their utmoſt endea"vours that an effectual ſtop be put to the ſaid injurious impu"tations laid to the charge of the Prince of Orange, and that "juſtice be effectually rendered him. His Majeſty hopes that "ſome regard will be paid to his requeſt, as if (contrary to his "expectations) any farther inſults ſhould be offered to the "Prince and Princeſs, he ſhall think himſelf obliged to eſpouſe "their intereſt in a more effectual manner."

"The Pruſſian Ambaſſador read the above letter twice over in a very diſtinct manner, and it viſibly made a very ſenſible impreſſion upon the whole Aſſembly, who promiſed to report the contents of it to their conſtituents.

"It is reported that a Deputation from the States of Utrecht have had an audience of the Stadtholder, in which they were charged to aſſure that Prince on the part of the ſaid States, that the Province of Utrecht will ſupport his Serene Highneſs in the full enjoyment of his rights and privileges to the utmoſt of their power," &c.

Extract of a letter from Amſterdam, Dec. 12.

"We were not miſtaken when we augured the Convocation Extraordinary of the States of Holland had for its object the late diſorder at the Hague. His Serene Highneſs appeared in

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person in the Aſſembly, accompanied by five Members of the Nobleſſe, who opened the deliberations, by giving to underſtand, "That what happened laſt Friday was but a mere diverſion, contrived by a few individuals, to teſtify to his Serene Highneſs the love and affection of the inhabitants for his perſon and his houſe. That, in conſequence, he had given orders to the Captain of the Guard not to diſturb theſe people in their tranſports of joy, whilſt they committed no exceſſes; and that his Highneſs propoſed finally that a reſtraint ſhould be put to the liberty of writing; and that the gazettes of South-Holland and of Diemer Meer ſhould be interdicted.

"It is certain, that in States there are a great number of ſenſible and brave citizens, to whom every arbitrary attack on the liberty of the preſs appears an infraction of civil liberty itſelf, and who think that the preſs ought to have no other limits than the laws, who render every man reſponſible for what he does, writes, or publiſhes againſt the reputation of another, or againſt the peace of the State, when he is ſummoned judicially. We have felt, in the preſent troubles, what we owe to this ſame liberty, againſt which the public vengeance was invoked. Therefore the Prince's propoſition had not the deſired ſucceſs. It was rendered commiſſorial, and that is much about the ſame thing as a decent negative. On the contrary, on the propoſition of the cities of Dort and of Amſterdam, it has been reſolved to enjoin to the Court of Juſtice to make inquiries after the authors, inſtigators, and accomplices of the diſorder that happened at the Hague; and in particular, why the Attorney-General, and the Grand Bailiff remained ſimple ſpectators of that tumult. There were only the Nobleſſe, and the towns of the Brille, Enkhuizen, and Medemblick, that did not accede to this opinion."

Extract of a letter from Paris, Dec. 11.

"Mr Strachey, and his Secretary, Mr Roberts, left this metropolis ſome days ago. If what drops from Dr Franklin and his colleagues can be relied on, the buſineſs which the above gentlemen were charged with is by no means completed; and American orders are now executing for 50,000 ſtands of arms, together with the clothing annually ſent of late years to that continent."

Extract from an inventory of the goods of Thomas Kebeel, Serjeant at Law, taken by Valentine Maſon, Appraiſer General to the Archbiſhop of Canterbury, in 1500.

	L.	s.	d.
Fifty quarters of malt, at 3 s. 4 d.	8	6	8
15 quarters of peaſe, at 2 s.	1	10	0
18 acres of barley, at 18 d.	1	7	0
12 ſcore of ſheep, wethers, unclipped, at 20 d. a piece,	20	0	0
8 ſcore of ewes, unclipped, at 13 d. a piece,	8	13	4
8 ſcore of lambs, at 6 d. a piece,	4	0	0
47 bullocks, at 7 s. a piece,	9	16	0
A couple of oxen,	1	3	4
493 wethers, at 9 l. per hundred,	38	3	6
379 fleeces of wool, at 4 d. a piece,	6	19	8
53 ſteers and heifers, at 9 s. a piece,	23	10	4
18 cows, at 8 s. a piece,	7	4	0

What a vaſt difference in the average price of proviſions in the courſe of 290 years!

PRICES OF CORN AT CORN EXCHANGE, Dec. 28.

Wheat, 40 s. a 54 s.	Boiling ditto, 30 s.
Fine ditto, —	Tick Beans, 20 s. a 25 s.
Barley, 16 s. a 31 s.	Small ditto, 26 s. a 30 s.
Rye, 30 s. a 35 s.	Tares, 20 s. a 26 s.
Oats, 16 s. a 22 s.	Rape Seed, —
Pale Malt, 36 s. a 44 s.	Per Sack.
Grey Peaſe, 22 s. a 26 s.	Fine Flour, 45 s.
White ditto, —	Second Sort, —

WIND AT DEAL,
Dec. 26. W. N. W.

*** No buſineſs done this day at 'Change.

EDINBURGH.

Extract of a letter from London, Dec 28.

"Many are the conjectures with reſpect to the not immediate evacuation of New York. It is imagined that, had the evacuation taken place, the Americans would then have joined the belligerent powers in proſecuting the war, inſtead of acceding to a peace, of which the evacuation, and the recognition of their independence, were to be the preliminaries.

"The correſpondence which is held between Jamaica and the Iſle of Cuba is thought to be a prelude to at leaſt a ſeparate peace with Spain; for the friendly intercourſe which is preſerved between the Britiſh and Spaniſh Governors muſt have ariſen from an *item* given by their reſpective Courts.

"The two gentlemen arrived from Spain are whiſpered to have come for concluding a treaty independent of the other belligerent powers, the foundation of which is, the ceſſion of Gibraltar in exchange for Minorca. Beſides, they bring ſome certain particulars reſpecting the delinquency of Portugal to our intereſt, by which it is expected to be known in a few days, that Portugal has abſolutely treated with the Americans as Independent States.

"The diſturbances in Holland render the republic in a predicament truly critical and alarming. They are in a ſituation that obliges them to comply with the French propoſitions for war, when the inhabitants are determined to compel them to accede to a peace. They muſt either perſevere in a war, which they have no reſources to ſupport, and bring on a civil war beſides; or, to preſerve themſelves from a civil commotion, they muſt render themſelves liable to a foreign land invaſion, which may drive them to ſeek another marſh or bog for draining into another republic.

"The pretence now on the part of France for not acceding to a peace, is not only the the ſalute in the narrow ſeas, but unconditional return of St Lucia; for they have the aſſurance to tell us, that nothing can make them a recompenſe for the expences of the war, which our oppreſſion has occaſioned, but ſuch a return. What they have poſſeſſed themſelves of, is due to their aſſiſtance of the oppreſſed. They are, therefore, determined not to ſheath the ſword, before they are permitted to ſheaf the harveſt which it has reaped. O Britain! how art thou fallen!

"By advices from Spaniſh America it is ſaid, that the Indians have taken the example of the Congreſs, and have abſolutely ſummoned a congreſs to aſſemble for the preſervation of their lives and liberties; for they have received ideas of policy from their connection with the Spaniards, and ideas of liberty from Spaniſh tyranny. Thus, it may be perceived, that Providence turns evil into good. Thus may ariſe from a multitude of ſavages, a people civilized and free. It was thus that Britain aroſe from a ſtate of ſavage nature, into the moſt conſummate ſtate of civility, policy, and freedom."

On Friday the 27th of December laſt, died at Montroſe, Mrs Jean Strachan, relict of Mr Thomas Chalmers, merchant there.

On Monday the 30th of laſt month, died at Polton, Mrs Preſton Balneaves, wife of Alexander Nairne, Eſq; of Drumkeſſo. It is entreated that her relations and friends will accept of this manner of intimating her death.

We hear, that, on Friday laſt, the Right Hon. the Earl of Buchan, Grand Maſter of Scotland, viſited COLTNESS Kilwinning Lodge, No. 35. and, after a ſuitable addreſs to the Brethren, aſſembled in a lodge lately built at Cumbuſnethan-kirk, to celebrate the feſtival of St John, his Lordſhip ſet out for Glaſgow to viſit the Brethren there. The great attention this reſpectable Nobleman has ſhewn, in his preſent high office, to the different Lodges, not only in this city, but in other parts of the kingdom, does great honour both to that Nobleman, and the ancient fraternity over which he preſides.

Extract of a letter from Colinsburgh in Fife, Dec. 26.

"Betwixt twelve and one o'clock this morning a dreadful fire broke out in the manſion-houſe of Kilbrackmont, which reduced it to aſhes. The houſe was inhabited by four poor families, two of which had ſix children each; and another conſiſted of one widow woman and two young children. They were all aſleep when the fire began, and with great difficulty eſcaped naked into the fields with their lives, but ſtript of their all. An old man who lived in one of the rooms, and who gave the firſt alarm, unfortunately periſhed in the flames upon returning to his room for his clothes."

Extract of a letter from Kilmarnock, Dec. 9.

"This day, the Magiſtrates and Town-Council here reſolved to advance a ſum of money for buying up good oat-meal for the uſe of the inhabitants, as that article of late has been ſcarce, and is daily on the riſe. The incorporated trades and private ſocieties came to the Council Chamber and bound themſelves to add to the ſum to be advanced by the Magiſtrates and Council, 610l. ſterling. We wiſh that ſo laudable and charitable a work may be followed by the other towns in Scotland, that the poor may not ſuffer during this hard winter and ſpring."

COPY LETTER,

The PROVOST *of* DUNDEE *to* LORD RODNEY.

MY LORD,

THE glorious actions atchieved by your Lordſhip, while they add luſtre to the Britiſh Arms, merit highly every return of gratitude from your country.

Animated by this principle, the Magiſtrates and Town Council, repreſenting the Corporation of Dundee, have directed me, in the moſt reſpectful terms, to acknowledge their high ſenſe of the eminent ſervices performed by your Lordſhip to the Britiſh Empire, and particularly of that deciſive victory over its enemies on the 12th of April laſt; a victory equally ſplendid and beneficial in its conſequences; and which will ever ſtand diſtinguiſhed in the annals of a country where naval merit is the chief boaſt.

Ambitious, MY LORD, to ſee a name ſo illuſtrious ranked among their citizens, they have done themſelves the honour to preſent your Lordſhip with the freedom of their corporation, which will be delivered by Mr Dempſter, their repreſentative in Parliament.

The ſentiments from which this mark of their reſpect is offered, will, they flatter themſelves, render it acceptable to your Lordſhip. I have the honour to be,

with the utmoſt reſpect,

Dundee, Nov. 13. 1782. MY LORD, your Lordſhip's moſt obt. and moſt humble ſervant, JOHN PITCAIRN, PROVOST.

COPY *of* LORD RODNEY'S ANSWER *to* PROVOST PITCAIRN.

SIR, *London, Dec.* 10. 1782.

YOUR Repreſentative, Mr Dempſter has delivered to me your obliging letter, accompanied with the freedom of the town of Dundee.

Be pleaſed, SIR, to ſignify to every individual member of your Corporation the juſt ſenſe of the honour they have been pleaſed to confer on me, by admitting me to the freedom of one of the moſt conſiderable maritime towns in the northern part of Great Britain.

It cannot but be flattering to me, to find my conduct, while I had the honour to command his Majeſty's fleets has met with the approbation of gentlemen ſo peculiarly intereſted in the naval glory of our country.

My particular thanks are alſo due, SIR, to you, for the elegant and obliging expreſſions with which you have been pleaſed to accompany ſo honourable a mark of the partiality of your Good Town towards me.

I beg you will permit me to ſubſcribe myſelf, with every reſpect,

SIR

Your much obliged, and moſt obedient, humble ſervant, RODNEY.

To the Printer of the CALEDONIAN MERCURY.

SIR,

I FREQUENTLY peruſe your uſeful and intelligent paper, and find it replete with the beſt intelligence, whether foreign or domeſtic, you are able to procure. At this ſeaſon of ſcarcity, a number of the incorporations, individuals, and other well-diſpoſed charitable perſons, have endeavoured, much to their honour, to fall on a method to purchaſe grain for the uſe of the poor, at a more moderate price than it is poſſible for them to procure from the common dealer. This, you will allow, Sir, is a praiſe-worthy action, and deſerves, and, I dare ſay, will meet with, imitation from all degrees of men, who wiſh to bear the epithet of *Chriſtians*. I likewiſe obſerve, that ſeveral plans of economy have been laid down in your uſeful paper. Now for my plan.

I have thought of two methods which will tend to the ſervice of the Public in general, be a relief to the poor, and a great means, at this time of ſcarcity, of reducing the high price of wheat. The firſt, and moſt glaring, is, to put an immediate ſtop to the making of ſtarch, which, to my own certain knowledge, conſumes as much wheat, on an average, for ſuperfluous uſes, as what is conſumed for the internal nouriſhment of our bodies. I am one of thoſe perſons who dreſs in the ſporting line; my hair ſeldom exceeds an inch and a half; and I can with truth aſſure you, though I have very often been in the firſt companies in the kingdom, it never coſt me half a pound of powder in my life. Though I may chuſe to dreſs in this way, I would by no means wiſh my long-tail'd acquaintances to apply the ſciſſars to their beautiful ringlets, but totally lay aſide the uſe of powder, and appear in public places with the hair well dreſſed, *without powder*, which will be a means of others following their example, and convince the world of the truth of the ſublime Thomſon——

For lovelineſs
Needs not the foreign aid of ornament;
But is, when unadorn'd, adorn'd the moſt.

There is another abuſe of this valuable neceſſary of life, the prodigious quantity made uſe of to adorn the heads of the ſoldiers, who are obliged to appear every day, at the place appointed for the parade, with full powdered heads; and, from their ſmall pittance, obliged to uſe that valuable article, when the belly is, perhaps, craving for what he has ſuperfluouſly thrown away for outward ſhow. The above abuſe of ſo valuable a neceſſary of life, being laid aſide, I have not the leaſt doubt but it will tend to the reduction of the price of grain as much as any plan of economy hitherto laid down, and gain the end of one who is a ſincere well-wiſher of the poor.

W.

ZENO'S THIRD LETTER *to the* CITIZENS *of* EDINBURGH, *inverted, and ſhall appear in our next.*

GREENOCK SHIPPING.

ARRIVED.

Dec. 28. Rachel, M'Lean, from Drogheda, with goods.
Nancy, M'Pherſon, from the Highlands, with herrings.
Elizabeth, Black, from Dublin, with goods.
29. John and Robert, Mains, from the Buſs ſiſhing, herrings.
Glaſgow, Taylor, from ditto, ditto.

SEALOCK SHIPPING.

ARRIVED,

Dec. 31. Eliſabeth, Cattie, from Alemouth, with oats.
Peggy, Watſon, from Anſtruther, with wheat.
Sincerity, Farmer, from Perth, with ditto.
Good Intent, Primroſe, from Preſtonpans, with iron.
Peggy, Mackie, from Alloa, for Glaſgow, with glaſs.
Jean, Brown, from Leith, for ditto, with ſundries.
Glaſgow Packet, Hanton, from Dundee, for ditto, with ditto.

SAILED,

31. Glaſgow, Shaw, for Borrowſtounneſs, with aſhes.
Jean, Bell, from Glaſgow, for Leith, with ſugar.

LEITH SHIPPING.

ARRIVED.

Dec. 31. John and Eſther, Norrie, from Dundee, with barley.
Betty, Peattie, from Anſtruther, with wheat.
Amphitrite, Wood, from Orkney, with goods.
Active, Jamieſon, from Glaſgow, with lead.
John and Margaret, Law, from Bann, with goods.
Generous Mind, Caithneſs, from Dundee, with flax and barley.
Friendſhip, Milne, from Aberdeen, in ballaſt.
Adamton, Lyell, from Perth, with goods.
Newcaſtle, Thomſon, from Dundee, with wheat.
Jan. 1. Jean, Bell, from Glaſgow, with ſugar.

PANTHEON.

TO-MORROW Evening, being the 2d current, the following Queſtion will be the ſubject of debate:—"*Whether does the Happineſs of the* MARRIED *State depend moſt upon the* HUSBAND *or the* WIFE?"

Tickets to be had at Mr Aitchiſon's, Parliament-ſquare, and of the other members.

FOREIGN APPLES.

TO be SOLD by JOHN GRANT, at his Warehouſe, foot of Quality Street, Leith,

APPLES OF PARADISE,
PIPPINS,
RENNETS.

Likewiſe, a ſmall parcel of ENGLISH APPLES:
NONPAREILS, RUSSETS, &c.

The above are all in fine condition, and will keep ſound ſeveral months.

At Banff, the 27th day of December 1782.

AT a General and very numerous Meeting of the Noblemen and Gentlemen, Freeholders, &c. for the county of Banff, convened for the ſole purpoſe of coming to ſome reſolution reſpecting the aſſiſtance and relief to be given to the Poor in the preſent ſtate of the country, the Earl of Fife being choſen Preſes, the Meeting firſt took under their conſideration the reports of the ſtate of the crop in the different pariſhes within the county. There was alſo laid before them accurate abſtracts from theſe reports made out by a Committee of themſelves, formerly appointed for the purpoſe. And after the moſt attentive conſideration of theſe reports and abſtracts, and after hearing the opinions of many of the gentlemen preſent, the Meeting were happy to find that the general ſcarcity which was ſo much dreaded, and indeed expected, was not ſo alarming as at firſt apprehended. In many pariſhes, it was found the tenantry would be able to ſupply themſelves; and, in moſt of the others, that there would be no great deficiency. It was accordingly unanimouſly agreed, that each heritor ſhould take burden upon himſelf for the ſupply of his own tenantry, where ſuch ſupply appeared neceſſary; and as moſt of the Gentlemen in the county are in poſſeſſion of, or have ſeen the general reports above mentioned, they can be at no loſs to judge where their aſſiſtance will be neceſſary; and, it appearing from the ſaid reports, that the town of Banff would require about two thouſand bolls of meal, the Meeting recommended to the Provoſt to call a Meeting of the Magiſtrates and Council, to conſider the moſt expedient method for ſupplying the town with this quantity. And the Committee formerly appointed are authoriſed to co-operate with the Magiſtrates in adopting the proper meaſures for this purpoſe accordingly.

And the Meeting taking alſo into their conſideration a commiſſion formerly given to George Robinſon, Eſq; merchant in Banff, for importing a quantity of oats, peaſe, and potatoes, fit for ſeed, &c. at their expence, they recommend to the Committee to acquaint the different Gentlemen in the county when this importation takes place, that they may have an opportunity of ſupplying themſelves and their people with what quantity they may think proper.

A HOUSE in Charles-ſtreet to be Sold.

TO be SOLD by public voluntary roup, within the Exchange Coffeehouſe, Edinburgh, upon Monday the 3d day of February next, at ſix o'clock afternoon.

That NEAT LODGING or DWELLING-HOUSE, being the top ſtorey of the new tenement in the ſouth corner of Charles-ſtreet, preſently poſſeſſed by Profeſſor Cumming, conſiſting of a good dining-room, two neat bed-rooms, with cloſets to each; another ſmall room and kitchen, on the firſt floor, and two garret rooms, and cloſet above, with other conveniencies. There are alſo two large cellars belonging to the houſe.

The progreſs of writs, and articles of roup, to be ſeen in the hands of Robert Trotter writer to the ſignet, to whom intending purchaſers may apply for further information.

SALE OF A TAVERN IN EDINBURGH.

TO be SOLD, by public voluntary roup, within the Exchange Coffeehouſe of Edinburgh, upon Wedneſday the 22d day of January 1783, betwixt the hours of five and ſix afternoon,

That HOUSE or TAVERN at the head of the Anchor Cloſe, nearly oppoſite to the Croſs, formerly poſſeſſed by Francis Wares, and now by John Gordon, the preſent yearly rent whereof is only 22 l. 10 s. Sterling, though lately ſet at 32 l.; and, from its centrical ſituation, and other conveniencies, there is little doubt that it will draw a rent conſiderably higher than what it now yields.

The title-deeds, with the articles of roup, to be ſeen in the hands of Alexander Mackenzie writer to the ſignet, who is empowered to conclude a private bargain.

The Houſe may be ſeen at any time.

GAZETTE VERY EXTRAORDINARY.

Extract of a letter from Fort Stomach, dated Wednesday, January 1. 1783. eleven o'clock forenoon.

"With the utmoſt pain I inform you of the total loſs of our ſtrength, and that Fort Stomach was obliged to ſurrender, after a moſt obſtinate engagement, from eleven o'clock forenoon to twelve at night, with little intermiſſion. The particulars, as nearly as our diſtreſſed ſituation permits us to recollect, are as follow:

"About ten o'clock forenoon, we were given to underſtand that a party of the enemy were approaching: Colonel Appetite, with his whole force, under the direction of that undaunted commander General Hunger, determined to attack them. They were commanded by Captain Chicken, with a corps from Weſtphalia. Their rear was ſupported by the Liſbon and Oporto volunteers, who kept up a diſcharge of grape ſhot for ſome minutes. The engagement was pretty ſevere; and before three in the afternoon, Colonel Appetite loſt a great part of his force, a circumſtance that did not in the leaſt affect General Hunger, who declared himſelf perfectly well ſatisfied. An interval of nearly two hours now took place, in which time Colonel Appetite had ſo well rallied his force, that he determined, in conjunction with General Gormandize, and the whole forces lodged in Fort Stomach, to give the enemy battle.

"At five o'clock we were in ſight of their army, perhaps the largeſt and beſt diſciplined ever in the field at one time. They had been drawn up in order of battle for ſome hours, and were ſupplied with ammunition for, I may well ſay, a month. Their vanguard was compoſed of the Joint regiment, a detachment of Sirloin volunteers, and two companies belonging to General Gooſe. The main body conſiſted of the completion of theſe regiments; and Sir Thomas Turkey's troops, flanked by Major Bacon's corps. The rear was brought up by the Paſtry volunteers, who made an appearance truly elegant. Sir Peter Port, Lord Claret, with Colonels Champaign, Burgundy, and Whiſky, and other naval commanders, took their ſtation on the right and left wings.

"At half paſt five, we loſt every thing but our honour. General Gooſe made an attack on our outer works, and effected a very conſiderable breach; his reception was warm from a detachment from General Hunger. This brave officer, however, as well as Colonel Appetite, fell a ſacrifice to their precipitate zeal; for having ſallied forth to deſtroy the Sirloin volunteers, they were totally defeated, a maſked battery being at that moment opened by Sir Robert Fiſh, who was intrenched in oyſter ſauce. The greateſt part of the enemy had now advanced within gun ſhot of Lord Claret's detachment, but he very wiſely reſerved his fire, ordering the Liſbon light troops to advance. They did ſo, and enfiladed our main body: Lord Claret, preceded by the Paſtry regiment, immediately came up, and determined to take the place by eſcalade, which he ſo well conducted, as to get up to Cape Brain before nine o'clock. After this nothing could ſave us. We capitulated on honourable terms, and the enemy took immediate poſſeſſion of all our works.

"An animoſity, which took place we believe on the part of Sir Robert Fiſh, now grew to ſuch an height that many of the enemy prepared to leave the place, by returning the way they came. The Commander of the Liſbon corps maintained, that Lord Claret, gave the firſt cauſe of diſſention, by contending with General Gooſe concerning precedency. General Gooſe, on his part, maintained that he failed in every expedition in which he had any connexions with Sir Peter Port; and aſſerted, that without the aſſiſtance of Colonel Whiſky, he would immediately reſign. The Colonel came, but an unhappy interview with the Burgundy fireſhip threw the whole into the utmoſt confuſion. Guns were heard from all quarters, and, by a very extraordinary ſmell, we learned, that one of the powder magazines, which was not bum-proof, had been blown up. At length General Gooſe began his march upwards, but was met by General Holland's, who informed him, that he had provided a paſſage by water for Sir Peter Port, with the Claret marines, and that he knew General Gooſe, with the main body, might retire by a back paſſage. A Privy Council being called, this advice was partly taken, and partly rejected. The whole forces under the directions of Sir Peter Port went by water, while the main body, under the direction of Major Bacon, made a haſty departure from the front. Both gave repeated diſcharges, which rendered the ſcene truly awful.

"All is now quiet, the Ach regiment having taken poſſeſſion.

"The number of killed, wounded, and miſſing on both ſides, is almoſt incredible; ſoon as a return is made, I will ſend you an exact liſt. I am,

Sir, Yours, &c. &c.

At LONDON for LEITH *directly*,

THE LEITH PACKET,

JOHN THOMSON Maſter,

Is taking in goods at Hawley's Wharf, for Edinburgh, and all places adjacent, deliverable at Leith, and ſails the 16th inſtant.

This ſhip is new, ſails faſt, is neatly fitted for the trade, and has good accommodation for paſſengers.

The Maſter to be ſpoke with on the Royal Exchange, and at the New England Coffeehouſe behind the Exchange, mornings and evenings on Tuesday or Hawley and Down for the Maſter.

Not to be repeated.

At London—for Leith and Borrowſtounneſs,

THE UNITY,

JAMES MELVIN Maſter,

For JAMES GRINDLAY,

Is now taking in goods at Hawley's Wharf, for the above and all places adjacent, and ſails with firſt convoy.

Letters addreſſed to the Maſter, at the New England Coffeehouſe, Threadneedle-ſtreet, will be attended to.

Good accommodation for paſſengers.

For TOBAGO and GRENADA,

THE NEUTRAL SHIP

KEYZER,

JACOBUS [illegible] SIDIN

She will ſail by the end of January 1783.

For freight or paſſage, apply to W. Sibbald and Co. or Scougall and Ogilvy, merchants in Leith.

DUNN'S ASSEMBLY-ROOM.

REGULATIONS.

I. TWELVE Subſcription Aſſemblies, the firſt to be held on Thurſday the 2d of January 1783, and to continue weekly on the ſame day.

II. Each Gentleman to pay two guineas, and to have twelve tickets for his own admiſſion only, and twelve tranſferable to gentlemen.

III. Each Lady to pay one guinea, and to have twelve tickets for her own admiſſion only, and twelve tranſferable to ladies.

IV. All the tickets will be numbered, and each night thoſe only will be received which correſpond to the number of the Aſſembly.

V. The holders of the tranſferable tickets to pay three ſhillings each, and to have their names on the back of their tickets, otherwiſe they cannot be admitted.

Subſcriptions taken in at Dunn's Hotel, St Andrew's Square.

N. B. A Lady may likewiſe tranſfer her own admiſſion ticket to a Lady, with her name, and the name of the Lady to be admitted, on the back of it.

☞ There will be no ASSEMBLY on the laſt night of the year. Tickets, at 5s. each, to be had as above.

COUNTY OF DUNBARTON.

By Order of Sir JAMES COLQUHOUN of Luſs, Baronet, Convener of the County of Dunbarton,

THE Noblemen, Gentlemen, and Heritors of the ſaid county are requeſted to meet at Dunbarton, upon Tueſday the 7th January 1783, at twelve o'clock mid-day, to conſider of the Heads of the amended Bill for the Defence of Scotland;—and alſo to take under their conſideration the preſent high price of grain, and what methods they are to follow, to ſupply the county in caſe of a ſcarcity.

Not to be repeated.

COUNTY OF PERTH.

TWO Several Bills for correcting the Abuſes of Freeholn Qualifications.—AS ALSO, The Amended Heads of a Bill for providing a Conſtitutional Defence for Scotland, by the better ordering of the Fencible Men, laid before the General Meeting of Delegates from the Counties at Edinburgh, and by their order tranſmitted to the ſeveral Counties, having been received by the Convener and Sheriff Clerk of Perthſhire, a meeting of the Noblemen, Gentlemen, and Freeholders of the County is to be held at Perth on Friday the 10th of January, for taking theſe matters into conſideration.

BERWICK SHIRE.

By Order of the SHERIFF and CONVENER of this COUNTY,

NOTICE is hereby given to the Gentlemen, Freeholders, and Proprietors, That a General Meeting of the ſhire is to be held at Greenlaw, upon Friday the 10th of January 1783, to take under conſideration the Heads of a Bill againſt Nominal Votes at Elections,—and another, entitled, "Heads of a Bill for altering and amending the "Laws which regulate the Qualifications of Freeholders in Scotland," and the report of the proceedings of the General Committee at Edinburgh, relative to theſe matters, all which have been tranſmitted to, and are now to be ſeen in the hands of the Sheriff Clerk.—As this is a matter of the moſt intereſting importance to the Landholders of this and every other county in Scotland, it is expected Gentlemen will attend.

The ſtate and condition of the Poor, as well as induſtrious Householders in this county, on account of the high prices of Corn, will be taken under conſideration at this Meeting.

IT is requeſted, that all thoſe to whom the Honourable GEORGE MACKAY of Reay deceaſed was indebted at the time of his death, will lodge a note of their claims, and of the vouchers thereof, with George Mackay, Eſq; of Bighouſe, by Thurſo, or with David Erſkine clerk to the ſignet, Edinburgh.

A SHEEP FARM.

TO be LET for ſuch a number of years as can be agreed on, and entered to at Whitſunday 1783,

The FARM of LANGHOPE, in the pariſh of Yarrow, and county of Selkirk.

The preſent tenant will ſhow the farm, and Mr Brown factor at Minto, will treat about the ſame.

INN AT HAMILTON.

To be LET, and entered to at Whitſunday firſt

THAT well-frequented INN in the town of Hamilton, with all the offices and back-grounds, as laſt poſſeſſed by the deceaſed William Burns, the proprietor.

For particulars apply to James Burns at Hamilton, or Archibald Burns writer, at Mr James Forreſt's writer to the ſignet.

There is alſo for ſale, a very neat POST CHAISE.

To be SOLD, betwixt and Thurſday the 17th of January next,

THAT TENEMENT of HOUSES, a ſmall Garden, and two Engliſh acres and twenty polls arable land, lying at the weſt end of the village of Spot, with the privilege of paſturing 30 ſheep on the lands of Spot, and caſting feal and divot; belonging to Wm. Lawrie ſmith at London. Any perſon inclining to purchaſe them, may apply to Andrew Crumbie dyer in Edinburgh, John Crumbie in Haddington, or Andrew Brown, junior, in Dunbar, who have power to conclude a bargain. If they are not ſold, they will be expoſed to ſale on ſaid 17th of January by public roup, in the houſe of Mr Lorimer vintner in Dunbar, at three o'clock afternoon; and if they are not then diſpoſed of, will be ſet in tack for ſuch a number of years as may be agreed on.

HOUSE TO BE SOLD.

THERE will be expoſed to public roup, upon Wedneſday the 15th of January curt. at ſix o'clock afternoon, within the Exchange Coffeehouſe, Edinburgh,

That HOUSE, and Plot of Ground belonging thereto, ſituated at the foot of the Caſtlebank, at the north end of the cloſe in the Graſs Market, commonly called "Crawford's Cloſe," which houſe and plot of ground lately belonged to James Reikie glazier in Edinburgh, and is preſently poſſeſſed by Mr Porteous painter, and others. The area could be eaſily converted into a wright's yard.

The title-deeds and articles of roup to be ſeen in the hands of Robert Cameron writer in Warriſton's Cloſe, any time before the ſale, who has powers to conclude a private bargain.

SALE OF LANDS IN LANARKSHIRE,

TO be SOLD, by public voluntary roup, upon the 13th January curt. within John's Coffee-houſe, Edinburgh, betwixt the hours of five and ſix afternoon, in whole or in parcels, as purchaſers ſhall incline,

The following LANDS which belonged to the deceaſed George Gray, Eſq; late of Leaſton, viz. The Lands of HAUKSLAND, MOAT, GOOSELANDHOUSE, KILHILLS, DICKIELAND, COULTERSHOGLE, BIRKHILL, MOATYET, BOURTREES, and GRAFFHILL, with their ſeveral pertinents, lying within the pariſh of Leſmahago, and ſheriffdom of Lanark.

Theſe Lands conſiſt of about 890 acres, nearly all arable, a great part of them incloſed, ſtripes of foreſt trees planted around the incloſures, are in the near neighbourhood of coal and lime, and capable of great improvement; and, as they are preſently free of leaſes, a purchaſer may enter to the natural poſſeſſion.

For further particulars, application may be made to Mr David Ruſſel accomptant in Edinburgh, truſtee for the heir and creditors of the ſaid George Gray, or to Mr John Smyth writer to the ſignet, who will ſhow the rental and plan of the lands, the articles of roup, progreſs of writs, and ſcheme of the lots.

Copies of the articles of roup, rental, and ſcheme of the different lots, may be alſo ſeen in the hands of Hugh Smith at Carnwath, who will give orders to ſhow the different lands to thoſe intending to purchaſe.

A FARM IN FIFE TO BE SOLD.

TO be SOLD by public voluntary roup, within John's Coffee-houſe of Edinburgh, on Friday the 10th day of January curt. betwixt the hours of five and ſix afternoon,

The Lands of LETHAM, lying in the pariſh of Arngask and ſhire of Fife. They are of conſiderable extent, and have been in graſs ſeveral years paſt. The upſet price will be 800 l. Sterling.

Application may be made to David Ruſſell accomptant in Edinburgh or to William Dick writer to the ſignet, in whoſe hands the proper meaſurement, and articles of ſale may be ſeen; and Andrew Mill of Conland, near Kinroſs, will give information as to other particulars.

BY ADJOURNMENT,—AND PRICES REDUCED. LANDS OF BLAIRNGONE.

TO be SOLD, by public roup, within John's Coffee-houſe, Edinburgh, upon Wedneſday the 15th January curt. betwixt the hours of four and five afternoon,

Theſe Four Sixth Parts of the town and lands of BLAIRNGONE, with the teinds thereof, which pertained to the deceaſed Robert Ainſlie in one lot, at the upſet price of 2068 l. 4 s. 4 d. Sterling.

AS ALSO,

Another Sixth Part of the ſaid town and lands, with the teinds thereof, pertaining to Edward Rutherford of Pathmill, in a lot by itſelf, at the upſet price of 480 l. 19 s. 10 d. Sterling.

Theſe upſet prices are at the rate of twenty years purchaſe of the lands, being 24 l. 6 s. 11 d. Sterling for each ſixth part, free of all duty, ceſs, and other public burdens, as mentioned in former advertiſements.

The conditions of roup, rental, and progreſs of writs are to be ſeen in the hands of James Marſhall writer to the ſignet, and James Rae writer in Perth. And Mr Taylor coal-grieve at Blairngone will ſhow the lands.

SALE of the ESTATES of CLOSEBURN, &c IN THE COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.

Upſet Prices Reduced.

TO be SOLD by roup, or auction, within the Exchange Coffeehouſe Edinburgh, on Wedneſday the 22d of January 1783, betwixt the hours of ſix and ſeven afternoon,

I. The Lands and Barony of CLOSEBURN, and PATRONAGE of the united Pariſhes of Cloſeburn and Dalgarno; the Farm of KIRKPATRICK, and the Lands and Eſtate of SHAWS, both marching with the barony of Cloſeburn; all lying in the united pariſhes of Cloſeburn and Dalgarno, and ſhire of Dumfries. To be expoſed together, for the encouragement of purchaſers, at 50,000 l. Sterling.

II. The Lands and Eſtate of CAPENOCH, lying in the pariſh of Keir and ſhire foreſaid. To be expoſed at 5000 l. Sterling.

If the Barony of Cloſeburn, the Farm of Kirkpatrick, and the eſtate of Shaws, do not ſell together, they will be expoſed in the following lots; and, for the encouragement of offerers, at the following low upſet prices:

LOT I. The Barony of CLOSEBURN, to be expoſed at 43,000 l.

LOT II. The Farm of KIRKPATRICK, to be expoſed at 1550 l.

LOT III. The Lands and Eſtate of SHAWS, at 6300 l.

The Barony of Cloſeburn conſiſts of about 9360 acres; and the free rent for the year to Whitſunday 1781, after deduction of public burdens, was about 1800 l. excluſive of the lime-quarries.

The Woods upon this eſtate are extenſive and valuable, conſiſting of about 270 acres, whereof 180 is moſtly oak, one half twenty years old, the other lately cut; 50 is firs and other timber near and around the manſion-houſe, all full grown, being above 50 years old; and the remaining 40 acres is thriving plantations of young firs on the farms of Campbell and Lakehead. The oak woods, at the laſt cutting, ſold for above 2300 l.

The farm of Cloſeburn Mains is all incloſed and ſub-divided, and ſome of the parks were, a few years ago, laid down to graſs in great heart, and a conſiderable part of the remaining eſtate is alſo incloſed and laid out in ſmall farms, and provided with neat farm houſes and offices, lately built.

Near the middle of the Barony there is a lime-work, in a moſt flouriſhing condition, which, beſides affording a noble fund for improving the eſtate, has, for a number of years paſt, yielded ſeveral hundred pounds of clear annual profit.

The eſtate has a right of Salmon-fiſhing on the river Nith, which bounds it on the ſouth. It has alſo great plenty of moſs; and the whole is well ſheltered and watered.

It is ſituated about ten meaſured miles from the market-town, and 13 from the ſea port of Dumfries, where there is a conſtant demand for grain, both for home conſumption and export; alſo a weekly market for cattle of every kind. It is about the ſame diſtance from Sanquhar, from which coal is got at a reaſonable rate; and it is only two miles from the village of Thornhill, where there is a quarterly fair, and a good market for yarn, and all ſorts of coarſe cloths, the manufactures of the country.

The great roads from England and Dumfries, to Glaſgow and Ayr, by Thornhill and Sanquhar, and to Edinburgh, by the Lead-hills, paſs through this eſtate, for upwards of three miles.

Theſe advantages, in point of ſituation and intercourſe, afford an opportunity to the tenants of getting the very beſt prices for the produce of their farms.

The barony of Cloſeburn ſtands rated in the ceſs-books at 4350 merks Scots, whereof above 3000 merks holds bleuch of the Crown, and the remainder of ſubjects for payment of ſmall feu-duties; and the proprietor has right to the tithes.

The Farm of Kirkpatrick lies interjected between the barony of Cloſeburn and the lands of Shaws; it is a very large and a very improveable farm, conſiſting of 429 acres, or thereby, which includes 30 acres of fir planting, about 13 years old, very thriving.

This farm was lately purchaſed, and was then reckoned a very cheap bargain; and ſince that time about 220 l. has been laid out for building, incloſing, and liming.

The Lands of Shaws are beautifully ſituated on the river Nith, and have a good ſalmon-fiſhing in that river; and they march with Cloſeburn and Kirkpatrick on the eaſt. They conſiſt of about 490 acres, all well incloſed and ſubdivided; as they are moſtly in the hands of the proprietor, the preſent yearly rent cannot be aſcertained; but it is expected, that, in a year or two hence, they will yield a clear rent of about 300 l. per annum.

There is a neat commodious manſion-houſe and excellent office-houſes of all kinds, all in good repair. The woods are valuable, conſiſting in whole of about 67 acres, partly full grown and fit for ſale; and the remainder well advanced and very thriving.

Theſe lands were lately purchaſed at 5340 l.; but, ſince that time, above 1000 l. has been laid out in liming, improving, and building houſes for tenants.

The eſtate of Capenoch is pleaſantly ſituated on the banks of the waters of Shinnal and Scarr. It contains 900 acres or thereby, including about 56 acres of wood, moſtly oak, twenty years old, and ſo almoſt fit for ſale. The arable part of this eſtate has almoſt all been limed within theſe few years; and the paſture ground is reckoned one of the beſt ſheep walks in Nithſdale. The lands of Byreholm are all incloſed and divided into ſmall farms, and good houſes built on them.

The preſent rent of Byreholm and Bogrioch Park is 138 l. and the former rent of Capenoch was about 107 l. It was in the heritor's own hand for the year 1780; but is now let for three years, from Whitſunday 1781, at 60 l. under reſtriction as to ploughing; but, in the hands of the purchaſer, there is no doubt of its leting again upon a leaſe of endurance at the former rent of 107 l. The woods are valuable; at laſt cutting, about twenty years ago, they ſold for about 1000 l.

William Campbell writer to the ſignet will ſhew the title-deeds, rent-rolls, and current leaſes, alſo plans of the eſtates, and conditions of ſale; and copies of the rent-rolls will be ſeen in the hands of Mr William Macdowal, at Dumfries, factor on the eſtate, who will alſo ſhew the lands.

For farther particulars, apply to Alexander Farquharſon accomptant in Edinburgh, who has power to ſell by private bargain, and will be ready to treat and allow a reaſonable time to pay the price.

EDINBURGH: Printed for and by JOHN and THOMAS ROBERTSON, and ſold at their Printing-houſe in the PARLIAMENT-CLOSE, where ADVERTISEMENTS and SUBSCRIPTIONS are taken in. This Paper is regularly publiſhed every Monday, Wedneſday and Saturday.——The price as follows: *viz.* 40 *s. Sd. per annum*, when ſent by poſt; 45 *s.* 6*d.* when ſent to any houſe in this city or ſuburbs; 37 *s.* 6*d.* when called for at the Printing-houſe; and a ſingle paper 3 *d.*